

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8747
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, ETEL, UPU
SUBJECT: RENUNCIATION OF TERRITORIES MEMBERSHIP IN
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)

REF: STATE 299326

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH THOMAS MEYER OF UK
DEPT. OF INDUSTRY AND MICHAEL BROWN OF FOREIGN AND COMMON-
WEALTH OFFICE (FCO). UPSHOT OF DISCUSSIONS WAS THAT UK
HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO US RENUNCIATION OF SEPARATE TERRI-
TORIAL MEMBERSHIP IN UPU. BOTH REGRETTED THAT THERE HAD
NOT BEEN MORE TIME TO COORDINATE A JOINT US-UK ACTION.

2. MEYER AT RECENT COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN SRI LANKA HAD
INFORMALLY QUERIED VARIOUS LDC DELEGATIONS ON THEIR PRE-
FERRED WAY TO HANDLE DEPENDENT TERRITORY MATTER IN UPU.
THEY PREFERRED AN APPROACH SUCH AS WAS TAKEN IN ITU
WHEREBY REFERENCES TO DEPENDENT TERRITORIES SUCH AS UPU
ARTICLE 23 LANGUAGE WERE REMOVED FROM CONVENTION AND UK
RATIFICATION SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED TERRITORIES SUCH AS
HONG KONG IN COVERAGE OF CONVENTION. HE FORESEES POSSI-
BILITY THAT USE OF ARTICLE 23 MAY BRING THE ARTICLE UNDER
ATTACK AT 1979 CONGRESS, BUT AGREES THAT THERE IS NO GOOD
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REASON NOT TO MAKE USE OF IT IN THE INTERIM.

3. UK HAS PASSED QUESTIONNAIRE TO ITS DEPENDENT TERRITORIES BUT, UNTIL IT HAS RECEIVED ALL BACK, WILL NOT DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE QUESTIONNAIRE OR MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. UK LEGAL STAFF IS PRESENTLY INCLINED TOWARD CREATION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS AT 1979 CONGRESS. FYI: APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF SOME LEGAL DOUBTS ABOUT VALIDITY OF UK RATIFICATION OF ITU FOR DEPENDENT TERRITORIES. END FYI. HOWEVER, BROWN WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF UK ENDED UP ADOPTING APPROACH US IS TAKING. ARMSTRONG

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